

“Happiness for a land owner and tree farmer is the accomplishment of long term goals”.
-Claude Eans



Claude and Pilar Eans

My wife and I both attended last year's Neighborhood Green Workshop (intended for small property owners and not necessarily tree farmers like us). The project was intended to introduce landowners to property management techniques that reduced turf growing, reduced the over-use of fertilizer, and increased habitat for wildlife. I noticed that some of these same goals and techniques were also required in our Tree Farm Management Plan, so the workshop ended up being very helpful even though we had a unique property & tree growing already underway.

After the workshop, my wife and I decided that we still had a few acres where we raising turf grass that would be better utilized for growing trees and shrubs. This would minimize the need to use expensive fertilizer for turf maintenance. This would also potentially reduce the area that we mow, reducing the amount of diesel fuel consumed. It would also provide a habitat benefit for wildlife. At the workshop we learned how to manage open field areas by mowing only at certain times to minimize disturbance to ground nesting birds and to promote the growth of warm season grasses.

Another benefit of the Neighborhood Green Workshop was the supplied soil sample kit which we used to determine what fertilizer was actually needed in the various lawn areas we intended to keep.

We learned that certain species of trees and shrubs were undesirable due to their tendency to overtake and kill native species which provide food for local wildlife. The unwanted species we treated with herbicide included Ailanthas or "Tree of Heaven", Russian and Autumn Olive, Bush Honeysuckle, and Barberry. We also managed to get our neighbors to participate in these efforts as well.

After meeting with the forester assigned to us by the Neighborhood Green program, we were able to come up with a plan for a new planting project. First and foremost this tree planting project would help reduce runoff to neighboring waterways. This also would slow down the storm water flowing into our 1/2 acre pond (which catches water from several surrounding acres). Then, the trees and shrubs would provide a soft edge between remaining mowed lawn areas and further improve the wildlife habitat. Trees that were planted included Swamp White Oak, Black Walnut, Silky Dogwood, Plum, Redbud and Hazelnut. These were available from the Maryland State Nursery. Our forester, Mike Kay, helped us to get grant money to pay for some of the planting materials since- due to our location- we were not eligible for grant money from the Neighborhood Green program.

We planted Silky Dogwood, Red Bud and Plum trees along our road to provide privacy and spring and fall beauty. We planted oak and walnut trees near several ash trees that may die in the future, as ash are currently threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer.

We were thankful for the Neighborhood Green program and our forester Mike who provided us with valuable input on what trees and shrubs to plant and where best to utilize them. We were happy to plant all Maryland native species.

(Photos on next page)



Oak and walnut seedlings planted in gaps in the woods near the pond (above)
Redbuds, plum trees, and more planted along the drive to our home (below)

